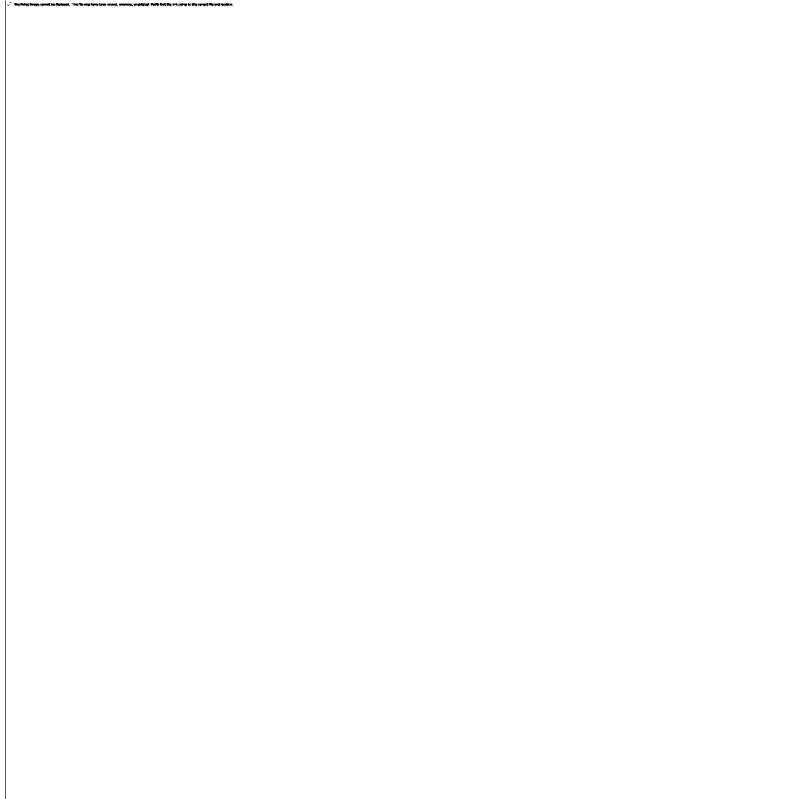
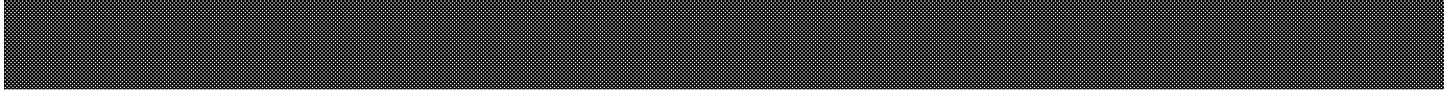


## Message

---

**From:** Morning Consult [reply@e.morningconsult.com]  
**Sent:** 6/1/2018 12:48:27 PM  
**To:** Woods, Clint [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bc65010f5c2e48f4bc2aa050db50d198-Woods, Clint]  
**Subject:** Morning Consult Energy: Trump Administration Considers Using Two Federal Laws to Aid Coal, Nuclear Plants



By [Jacqueline Toth](#)

## Top Stories

- A planned Energy Department directive would use federal emergency authority under both the Federal Power Act and the Defense Production Act to order grid operators to purchase electricity from coal and nuclear plants in an effort to help those plants compete against cheap natural gas and renewable sources, according to a draft 41-page internal memorandum dated May 29 and circulated Thursday prior to a National Security Council

meeting on the topic today. There was no indication that President Donald Trump had signed off on the plan, or if an order would ultimately be issued. ( [Bloomberg](#) )

- Pope Francis, who wrote his encyclical on the necessity of addressing climate change, will host a meeting late next week at the Vatican with executives from major oil producers, like BP PLC and Equinor ASA, as well as investment companies to discuss how the firms can tackle a changing climate, according to sources. Former Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz was also expected to attend. ( [Axios](#) )
- On Thursday, electric cars scored a boost as New Jersey's largest utility owner, Public Service Enterprise Group, spelled out a plan to dole out \$300 million on electric car charging stations; California approved \$738 million in investments by utilities to promote electric vehicles; and the New York Power Authority said it would spend as much as \$250 million on charging stations. The move by the California Public Utilities Commission is the largest utility investment in electric vehicle adoption in the United States to date and promotes a potential electric car-charging network across the state. ( [Bloomberg](#) )
- In a unanimous vote, the Environmental Protection Agency's 44-member Science Advisory Board of outside experts said it would review the agency's proposed rule to prevent the EPA from using unpublished scientific data in its rulemakings, noting the proposal was written without discussions with the scientific community. The panel also voted to review five additional agency actions, such as its proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan and glider truck emission standards, and its plan to change current fuel-efficiency standards. ( [Washington Examiner](#) )

## Chart Review

Decarbonisation of heat in Europe: implications for natural gas demand

**Anouk Honoré, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies**

## Events Calendar (All Times Local)

### FRIDAY

Northeast Renewables event on developing the Northeast renewables market	7:30 a.m.
Transit Research and Development committee meeting on the federal role in the National Program	8 a.m.
Platts Northeast Power and Gas Markets conference	8 a.m.

House Natural Resources field hearing on natural gas and oil shale opportunities in Western Colorado

2 p.m.

---

## Download the New Report

Tracking brand loyalty, purchasing consideration, e-commerce, and more.

## General

### EPA's Science Advisory Board rebukes Pruitt over rule combating 'secret science'

**Josh Siegel, Washington Examiner**

The Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board unanimously agreed Thursday to vet a controversial proposal from Administrator Scott Pruitt that would block the agency from using scientific studies that do not make public the raw data used in research.

### Think tank balks as agency links it with 'secret science'

**Sean Reilly, E&E News**

A centrist think tank is disputing EPA's characterization of a 2009 report that it's using to justify its controversial proposal to limit the use of scientific studies in crafting new regulations.

### EPA emails could contradict Pruitt testimony on apartment hunt

**Gregory Wallace, CNN**

Newly released emails appear to contradict EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's account in recent congressional testimony that the aide who assisted him with his apartment hunt did so "on personal time."

### House Oversight to interview two close Pruitt aides

**Anthony Adragna, Politico**

The House Oversight Committee plans to interview two members of Scott Pruitt's inner circle this month as it presses ahead with its investigation into the embattled EPA administrator's ethics controversies and lavish spending, according to a committee aide.

### Interior's top lawyer plays key role as troubleshooter, records reveal

**Juliet Eilperin and Dino Grandoni, The Washington Post**

In April 2017, pesticide industry officials were eager to meet with the Interior Department's principal deputy solicitor about a provision in the Endangered Species Act they viewed as time-consuming and complex.

**Oil Prices Mixed as Gap Between Global Benchmarks Widens**  
**Christopher Alessi, The Wall Street Journal**

Oil prices were mixed Friday, further opening a gap between U.S. crude and global prices that is at its widest in three years.

---

## **Oil and Natural Gas**

**Pope convenes Big Oil, investors to talk climate change**  
**Amy Harder, Axios**

Pope Francis is hosting a gathering next week at the Vatican with executives of major oil producers and investment firms to talk about how the companies can address climate change, according to several people familiar with the event.

**Oil and gas sector worries of accelerating impacts as White House expands steel tariff reach**  
**Maya Weber and Justine Coyne, Platts**

Oil and gas industry interests feared higher materials costs, supply chain headaches and risks to trading relationships, following the Trump administration's decision to expand steel and aluminum tariffs to cover the European Union, Canada and Mexico.

**U.S. and Brent crude part ways, leaving market flummoxed over oil prices**  
**Amanda Cooper and Ayenat Mersie, Reuters**

Global oil markets have been roiled by a surprising divergence between the world's major benchmarks, Brent crude and its U.S. counterpart, which in recent days have traded at odds with one another, wrongfooting investors betting on the exact opposite.

**GE Pulls Back From Work in Iran**  
**Benoit Faucon and Thomas Gryta, The Wall Street Journal**

General Electric Co. is planning to end sales of oil and natural-gas equipment later this year in Iran, people familiar with the matter said, illustrating how U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal is shutting a narrow window of opportunity for some American businesses there.

**Shell Tries to Market Some of Its Natural Gas as Clean Energy**  
**Matthew Carr, Bloomberg**

Royal Dutch Shell Plc is attempting to market some of its natural gas as clean energy, packaging it with credits for eco-friendly projects that offset pollution coming from the fuel.

#### 24 Oil Wells in a School's Backyard. How Close Is Too Close?

**Julie Turkewitz, The New York Times**

A new oil rig will rise behind a middle school in this sprawling county in the coming months, its slender tower bearing an announcement: fracking is back.

---

## Utilities and Infrastructure

#### Battered Puerto Rico still 2 months from full power as hurricane season opens

**John Bacon, USA Today**

More than eight months after Hurricane Maria tore across Puerto Rico and knocked out power to virtually the entire island of 3.3 million people, full power restoration remains another two months away, authorities said Thursday.

#### The Energy Grid Isn't Insured Enough to Handle a Catastrophic Hack

**Naureen S. Malik, Bloomberg**

Insurers are limiting how much coverage energy companies can buy to protect themselves against a major attack by hackers, potentially leaving investors, customers and taxpayers on the hook for sizable losses.

#### Federal assessment finds 'gaps' in preparation for electric grid attacks

**Morgan Chalfant, The Hill**

An assessment released by the departments of Energy and Homeland Security this week finds that there are shortfalls preventing the energy sector from improving its ability to respond rapidly in the event of a major cyberattack that disrupts the electric grid.

---

## Renewables

### In a Single Day, the Electric Car Boom Gains Speed in 3 States **Mark Chediak and Joe Ryan, Bloomberg**

First, New Jersey's biggest utility owner Public Service Enterprise Group laid out a plan to spend \$300 million on electric-car charging stations. Then California cleared utilities to invest a combined \$738 million on projects promoting EVs.

### For Electric Cars Without a Plug, Thank Tesla (the Scientist) **Stephen Williams, The New York Times**

At its introduction last summer in Barcelona, Spain, the 2019 Audi A8 quattro became the poster child of automotive high tech: matrix L.E.D.s that shine from the headliner with the wave of a hand, advanced autonomous driver assistance sensors, active electromechanical suspension. And on the floor under one of the models, a gray metal pad.

---

## **Coal**

### Trump to Grant Lifeline to Money-Losing Coal Power Plants Nuclear **Jennifer A. Dlouhy, Bloomberg**

Trump administration officials are making plans to order grid operators to buy electricity from struggling coal and nuclear plants in an effort to extend their life, a move that could represent an unprecedented intervention into U.S. energy markets.

### U.S. coal lobby fights black-lung tax as disease rates surge **Valerie Volcovici, Reuters**

The Black Lung Disability Trust Fund is at risk of insolvency due to soaring debt and a slashing of coal-company contributions through a tax cut scheduled for the end of the year, according to a report the U.S. Government Accountability Office plans to publish soon, two sources briefed on the study told Reuters.

---

## **Nuclear**

### Plant overcharged TVA nearly \$4.4 million **Dave Flessner, Times Free Press**



The Tennessee Valley Authority was overcharged nearly \$4.4 million by a contractor at the Watts Bar Nuclear Power Plant for construction of the Unit 2 reactor from 2013 to 2015, according to an audit released Wednesday.

---

## Climate

### EBRD publishes guidance for firms disclosing climate impacts **Nina Chestney, Reuters**

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has published guidance for companies reporting on the physical impact of climate change in their financial results.

### SoftBank Fund Puts \$2.25 Billion in G.M.'s Driverless Unit **Neal E. Boudette and Michael J. de la Merced, The New York Times**

Self-driving cars have increasingly figured in visions of the automotive future, and a big new investment is the latest signal that such a moment is close at hand.

---

## Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

### Asian Allies Need U.S. Energy Exports **Surya Gunasekara, Morning Consult**

President Donald Trump knows a bad deal when he sees one, so it should not come as a surprise when the president fulfilled another campaign promise to abandon the Iran nuclear deal. His sober analysis was spot on; the Iran deal was a "horrible, one-sided deal" that allowed Iran to reach the brink of nuclear breakout and will never bring peace.

### We're keeping our Paris climate change commitments and our economies are booming: Governors **Jerry Brown et al., USA Today**

The 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change was a landmark moment in human history. It crystallized decades of negotiations into a framework embraced by every country in the world to confront the existential threat of climate change and work together to solve the challenge.

**Wacky Prices Pinch Oil Producers' Profits**  
**Spencer Jakab, The Wall Street Journal**

"Oil prices rose yesterday." That sound bite is usually enough for those with a casual interest in the direction of the world's most important commodity, whether it is because they own a few hundred shares of Exxon Mobil or want to know how much next weekend's road trip will cost.

**Developments in Energy Storage Could Spell the End of the Duck Curve**

**Purvin N. Patel, POWER Magazine**

To alleviate the problematic conditions resulting from the duck curve, utilities have traditionally turned to natural gas peaker plants to quickly deliver energy during peak demand periods.

**The New Tech That Terrifies OPEC**  
**Spencer Jakab, The Wall Street Journal**

What doesn't kill you makes you stronger. Two years ago, it looked like Saudi Arabia was winning its fight against the U.S. shale oil industry by furiously pumping crude to drive down prices.

**The sage grouse isn't just a bird - it's a proxy for control of Western lands**

**John Freemuth, The Conversation**

The Trump administration is revising an elaborate plan developed under the Obama administration that sought to steer energy development away from sage grouse habitat. Conservation groups are suing in response, arguing that this shift and accelerated oil and gas leasing threaten sage grouse and violate several key environmental laws.

**The Paris agreement's emissions goals may be in trouble, with or without U.S. participation**

**Johannes Urpelainen, The Washington Post**

Last June, President Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the 2015 Paris agreement on climate change. How are the Paris goals looking, a year later? It may be too early to assess whether the Paris signatories are on track with their pledges for the year 2030, but rising carbon dioxide emissions in Asia and Europe, in particular, are a troubling sign.

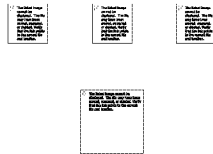
---

## Research Reports

### New Realities, New Risks: Rethinking the Strategic Petroleum Reserve

**Jason Bordoff et al., Columbia University Center on Global Energy Policy**

The last few years have offered a reminder, if any was needed, that oil markets are no stranger to volatility. From OPEC's reported demise to OPEC's resurgence, the rapid fall and rise again of US shale, and the ebb and flow of geopolitical risk, oil has been on a rocky ride. After industry leaders and experts declared that the days of cheap oil were over-"\$100 per barrel is becoming the new \$20," explained one top oil CEO in 2014-consensus shifted to a view that oil prices would remain "lower for longer" before sharply rising again in the last few months.



This email was sent by: Morning Consult  
PO Box 27068 Washington, DC, 20038, US  
[Manage your email preferences](#)

**SUBSCRIBE**